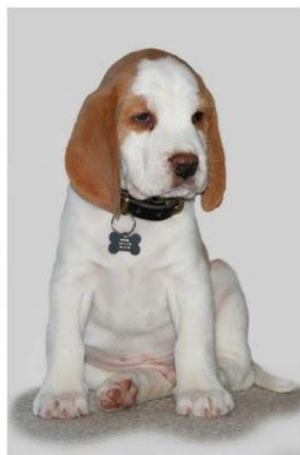


Top Ten Dog Training Tips



Looking for tips on training a challenging dog? How about advice on helping an abused rescue dog master basic commands without cowering? From keeping your dog in your own yard to building the ultimate (and cheap!) backyard obstacle course, we've got you covered! We've rounded up some of our best training tips just for you to say "thanks!" for subscribing to our newsletter. Let's get started, shall we?

Training a Difficult or Aggressive Dog

Let's jump right in with one of the toughest dogs to train: an aggressive pooch. Dog aggression can come in many forms. It can be fear based. It can be based in territoriality. It can be the result of training. However, it may have been instilled in the dog, dog aggression can be a dangerous problem. This is especially true in **rescue dogs**. Today we're going to talk about how to train an aggressive dog and when it's time to see a professional.

I read an article the other day about an owner who had adopted a middle-aged dog from an elderly woman. The woman was no longer able to care for the dog, and he got along well with the adoptive owner. The owner is having trouble because the dog was never trained in any way, and he learned that snapping and biting was an effective way to get what he wanted. Now this owner is at a loss for what to do. That's why we're going to touch on a few different ways of training and also discuss when it's time to **take your dog to a professional trainer**.

DOG AGGRESSION IN ALL ITS FORMS

As I stated earlier, dog aggression can take different forms. It's important to know which form you have so you can take the proper approach to training. It's also important to know when you're out of your depth.

Fear Based Aggression

This form of aggression occurs when the dog is frightened. **Any dog can be scared**, but you'll commonly find the aggression aspect of that fear in **dogs who have been abused**, trained improperly, have low bite inhibition due to breed, or a combination of these. In these instances, the dog only wants to protect himself. Dogs only have two options – fight or flight. A well-adjusted dog will try to cower

or maybe run. A dog with fear aggression will choose the bite option if he feels cornered.

When training a fear aggressive dog, slow and steady is key. Never push the dog further than he's willing to go. Never approach the dog in a menacing way. Be calm, gentle, and quiet. Use positive reinforcement and whatever your dog's currency is. For some dogs, it's treats. For others, it's simply extra scratches and your approval. In any case, the main lookout for a fear aggressive dog is doing anything that would frighten him.

Territorial Aggression

This form of dog aggression is all about ownership. If a dog with this type of aggression feels that something is his, he will guard it vigilantly. It could take the form of being aggressive towards visitors in the house, or it could be guarding his favorite toy. It could even be becoming overly protective of the children in the family.

Training a dog with this form of aggression requires great care. If you are very experienced in dog training, you might have a shot. Desensitization is key with aggression of this sort. Start out small and work your way towards larger things. For example, if your dog is immediately on guard when the doorbell rings, have a family member go out and ring the doorbell multiple times a day. Get the dog used to that sound. The second that the doorbell rings, and your dog doesn't bark or growl, reward him.

After you've mastered that, you can move on to having one person your dog knows come over. Keep your dog on a lead so he can't lunge. This gets him used to people entering the home. Show your dog that this person is accepted and is not an intruder. This form of dog aggression requires your dog to trust your cues.

If you aren't comfortable with this, seek out the advice of a dog trainer with experience in aggression.

Trained Aggression

It hurts my heart to say this, but we had a few clients come into the vet where I worked who were proud of the fact that their dogs were trained "guard dogs". I

have that in quotes, because what they really had were dogs who had been taught pure aggression. This form of dog aggression is one of the worst because it has been trained. That means it's been ingrained in the dog that their behavior is not only good, it's appropriate. A **true guard dog** only attacks on command or when a family member is actually threatened. What most people do is train their dog to be aggressive in general.

In my opinion, this form of dog aggression always requires the help of a professional dog trainer with extensive experience training aggressive dogs. This form of aggression is simply too dangerous and unpredictable for anyone but a professional to tackle.

WHEN TO SEE A PROFESSIONAL

A professional dog trainer can be a great help with all forms of dog aggression. If you aren't comfortable with specialized training, don't even attempt to do it on your own. You'll only make a fear-based biter more fearful, and you'll make a territorial or trained aggressive dog that much more aggressive and prone to biting. Dog aggression doesn't mean you have to give up your pet. It just means you need the proper training to help him get back to the great dog he started out as.

3 Confidence-Boosting Training Games for an Abused Dog

Training games for an abused dog, when done properly, can really help boost a scared pooch's confidence and make him feel safe and loved again. Nothing breaks my heart-or raises my blood pressure- more than finding out that **a dog was abused**. There's no excuse for hurting an animal. Period. You know that though. You're all here because you love dogs as much as we do, so I'll spare you the long rant.

Let me instead start with an inspirational story about BB, the most lovable **pit bull** in all the land. My friend Beth rescued BB from a closet. Literally, a closet. He was locked in there, abused and beaten, by drug dealers who used him as a guard dog. She found him when he was less than a year old, all skinny with his big, sweet, pit bull head. She and her family took him and showed him love, kindness

and patience. BB could have been a mean dog. His abuse and mistreatment could easily have set him up for a rough recovery.

Instead, BB chose to love the living daylight out of everyone he met, and my goodness, that boy can love! You know that **pit bull quote** about how they're vicious because they attack you with kisses? They're not joking! Aside from allergies (Beth and Mike struggle with BB's **skin irritation** and are constantly trying to keep up with it), BB is a happy, healthy boy. You would never know that he had such a horrible start to life.

I shared that story to illustrate how the simple act of loving your abused dog can completely change his life. That love, and kindness must be a part of all training games for an abused dog. For the most part, you can use many of the same training games that you'd play with dogs that weren't abused, you just need to approach them in a gentler manner. Now, on to a few games you can play to help bring your abused pooch out of his (or her, these aren't gender specific) shell.

THE NAME GAME

This one helps your dog associate his name with good things instead of anger. It's a good starter game to get an abused dog used to training. Sit with your dog in a calm, quiet area. Avoid eye contact, because abused dogs are very leery of direct contact (they're used to being looked upon in a threatening manner). Call his name, using your "good boy" voice. If he looks up at you, reward him. If he flicks his ears to give indication that he heard you, reward him. If he even so much as wiggles his eyebrow in indication that he's paying attention, reward him.

HIDE AND SEEK

Encouraging your dog's natural instincts to hunt is a great way to boost confidence. The game is simple: show your dog a treat, then hide it and let him find it. Here's the thing: an abused dog may not realize that he has permission to hunt down the treat. So rather than just saying "look, here's a bone, now where did Mommy put it?" you'll want to start with smaller treats. Give him one right off the bat. Then show him one and hide it close by. If he still doesn't understand, make a trail to the treat. Eventually, he'll grasp the concept that when you hide

the treat, you're giving permission for him to find it. Then you can make it more complicated.

TUGGING GAMES THAT *THEY* WIN

My dog Cooper was 6 months old when we rescued him. He spent the first 6 months in a tiny cage with 10 other puppies, fighting for his food and his life. At first, I wasn't sure if tug-a-war would be an appropriate confidence-boosting game, especially since he was just so shy. I tried "fetch," but my German Shepherd kept intercepting and stealing the ball (she was a bit obsessive about fetch). Not really a great way to boost Coop's confidence! Then one day I picked up a fleece rope that I made (I just braided pieces of fleece together) and Coop's eyes lit up. He LOVED playing tug-a-war. When I let him win, he pranced around like he was king of the world. After that, he started getting into other games too. He even began competing more with Tasha in fetch games, interacting like part of the pack. I did read, though, that at the end of the round, you should take the rope and put it up to show that you still rule the roost.

In addition to these three easy training games for an abused dog, you should also consider talking to your vet about enrolling your dog in obedience classes that specialize in shy or mistreated dogs.

I hope these help you bring your shy dog out of his shell! I'm not an expert in training, but I've had experience in loving abused dogs. Remember, that is the most important part of training mistreated animals: love and patience.

Crate Training Your Dog While Working a Full-Time Job

How do you deal with crate training while working a full-time job? It's not as hard as you might think if you follow our tips! Getting a dog is a **big responsibility**, which you shouldn't underestimate. Dogs are **active**, energetic, and curious animals. That's why sometimes they make a mess of your home when you leave them unsupervised. But that's where crate training can help you. Don't worry, it's totally possible to crate train your dog even if you're working full time outside the home!

Spending some time in a crate is not that cruel for your dog, as you imagine it. Wild dogs have den – secure places where they sleep, hide and protect their young. Crate training relies on this natural dog instinct and provides them with a spot where they feel safe and secure.

So, let's see how you can crate train a dog while working full-time.

DO'S & DON'TS OF CRATE TRAINING

The crate should be a place where your dog goes voluntarily and where he feels happy, content and relaxed. So, **don't:**

- use the crate as punishment
- force the dog inside
- **crate your dog for long hours**, especially puppies because they can't hold their bladder for very long
- crate a sick dog or a dog with **separation anxiety**
- use the crate to get your dog out of your way
- put your dog in the crate when it's too hot or cold

What you should do:

- Choose the **size of the crate** carefully. You don't want something too small, or your dog won't be comfortable inside. A crate too big also doesn't work because your dog can sleep in one end and poop and pee in the other.
- Make the crate as comfortable as possible.
- Put it in a room where you spend most of your time.
- Remove the collar and the leash before your dog goes into the crate.
- Choose two cue words – one for going into the crate and one for going out of the crate.

HOW TO CRATE TRAIN A DOG

I want to tell you that it's possible to crate train your dog in just one weekend, but that would be a big fat lie. Every dog reacts differently to crate training. Some might learn it in a few short days, while others will need weeks. You just must be patient.

#1 GOOD THINGS HAPPEN INSIDE THE CRATE

- Get the crate inside the room without your dog seeing what's going on.
- Place some of his favorite toys inside and scatter tasty treats inside and outside the crate.
- Let the dog into the room and act normal.
- Rover will eventually investigate the new thing and eat some of the treats. Don't react to this.
- When the dog's not looking, you should throw more treats around the crate.
- You're creating the illusion that the crate provides tasty things and the dog will start to venture inside without encouragement very soon.
- Repeat for a few days.

Also, start feeding your dog inside the crate. This will make your dog associate the crate with good things.

#2 INTRODUCE THE CUE WORD

- Throw a delicious treat into the crate and wait for your dog to go inside to get it.
- When he does it right, you say, for example, "Crate up," praise him and give him one more treat.
- Wait for the dog to exit the crate and say, "Come out." Don't give him a treat.
- Repeat many many times.

3 STOP USING TREATS TO ENTICE YOUR DOG INSIDE

- Start by repeating the previous step a couple of times.
- Then say your cue word, but don't throw the treat.
- Praise and reward your dog when he goes into the crate.
- Use the "Come out" cue word and praise them when he does it.
- Repeat many many times.

4 TIME TO CLOSE THE DOOR

- Say your cue word and wait for the dog to respond.
- Then praise him, reward him and close the door as if it's not a big deal.
- Give Rover some treat through the closed door.

- Wait a few minutes and open the door.

Once the dog is comfortable with this step, you can start latching the door.

#5 LEAVING THE DOG ALONE

- Repeat the previous two steps as a warm-up.
- When you close the door, take a couple of steps back and return.
- Praise and reward your dog and open the door.
- Repeat but start to extend the distance between you and the dog slowly.

Eventually, you'll be able to leave your dog alone for a few minutes while you're out of the room. And then you can work on extending the time.

As you can see, the steps are not difficult or complicated, and they don't require much effort on your part. You can start crate training on the weekend and carry it on weekdays easily.

CRATE TRAINING BENEFITS

Here are some of the good things about crate training:

- Speeds up house training
- Keeps your puppy and your possessions safe
- Makes transporting your dog easy
- Gives your dog a secure place where they can sleep and relax

Crate training certainly has many benefits. But you should use it as little as possible. You wouldn't want to live locked up for most of your life, would you? Well, your dog feels the same.

So, if you can't trust your dog to behave while you're at work and you have to keep him crated, you must make up to him with exercise and plenty of play time.

[Training Your Dog – How to Get Him to Focus](#)

Training your dog requires commitment and patience. It also requires your dog to pay attention to you. It's important to the training process. He can't learn anything if he's off in the clouds. Another core reason to getting your dog to focus

when training your dog is to teach him to look to you in situations when you're out and about. This is essential to his safety. So how do you get the attention of an unfocused dog? Interestingly enough, through training.

First things first. As with any type of new training, it's important to begin indoors. To put it simply, there are just too many outside stimuli for any new training to be done anywhere except inside the house where you can control the environment and limit distractions.

EYE CONTACT

Eye contact is also key, and it's the first step in teaching your dog to focus on you. Take a treat and place it near your eye. Once your dog looks you in the eye, give him the treat. Over time, your dog will understand that eye contact gets him a reward. Eventually, you can move to simply placing your hand near your eye to get the desired effect. But the treat still stands, of course.

LEAVE IT

Training your dog to leave it is the next core component and teaching him to focus on you. Begin by placing a treat on the palm of your hand. When your dog goes for it, close your hand around it so that he can't get it. Once he leaves it alone, you can then give him the treat. Be sure to give the "Leave it" command as you close your fist so that he understands the command word associated with the action.

After he's got the command down pat when the treat is in your hand, move to placing the treat on the floor. Begin with giving the "leave it" command and waiting for a few seconds. Chances are, that's all your dog will be able to handle in the beginning. After a few seconds, release him to get the treat. Slowly increase the time over multiple training sessions until your dog is able to "leave it" for as long as you say. Remember, training your dog is all about consistency. It's better to begin with a super short time of "leaving it" to ensure his success than to try to walk before he can run.

THE FOCUS COMBO

Here's where you get into training your dog to focus on you. You'll combine "leave it" with "look at me". You might experience a few hiccups in the beginning

as this is an advanced command combo, but your dog will get it. Once he does, you'll be able to move to the yard, where you can further strengthen this focus command where more distractions are present.

TRAINING YOUR DOG TO FOCUS ON YOU – CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY

Training your dog to focus on you serves two purposes. It allows you to more easily teach him other commands because you can get his attention for increased success. It also allows you to protect him from himself in possibly dangerous situations. Training your dog to focus on you can help with everything from preventing a dog fight to keeping him out of dangerous situations like running into traffic or chasing an animal into a dangerous environment.

Remember, training your dog to focus on you is the key to further training success and safety, so give it a try. It might seem daunting at first, but your dog will get it in no time.

Dog Training Tips: Training your Dog to Stay in the Yard

Wouldn't it be nice to know that your dog will stay in your yard instead of roaming? Our **dog training tips** may be able to help! A fence or other containment system can ensure your dog stays confined to a specific area, but that may not always be feasible. Your dog may escape the fenced area, or you may want to enjoy your dog running around your open yard without worry that he will run off. Here are a few dog training tips to help you train your dog to stay in your yard.

Decide Upon a Boundary

Decide upon the boundary line around your yard. Walk the perimeter and mark it with flags. Set the boundary line at least 2-3 feet back from the actual boundary you want your dog to stay away from. Make sure family members know the boundary lines as well.

Teach Commands

This is one of the most important dog training tips for any training. Work on teaching your dog commands like “No,” “Stop,” “Wait,” and “Sit.” These will help you as teach him to stay in your yard. You will also need to teach him to release commands that help him know when it is okay to cross the boundary — terms like “Let’s go for a walk” or “free” can be used for this. Don’t forget to read our [Tips for Training a High Energy Dog](#).

Walk the Boundary with a Leash

[Spend time walking your dog — with a leash](#) — around the marked boundary. Do this at least four or five times every day for several days. Give your dog time to sniff around and explore, but never allow him to cross the boundary line — not even a little bit. The second he sets a foot over the boundary line, correct him with a quick jerk on the [leash](#) and a firm “No” command.

After a few days, you can allow your dog to walk up to the boundary line and stop. This is the best time to use the commands “Stop” or “Wait.”

After a few more days, you can walk to the boundary with your dog and step over the boundary yourself. Command your dog to stay as you step over. Reward him with plenty of treats and praise for following your commands.

Be sure to spend time walking different parts of the boundary. Your dog needs to know the entire boundary area and is familiar with it.

Walk the Boundary Without a Leash

After a couple of weeks of obeying commands and staying within the boundary, you can allow the leash to trail behind as your dog walks along the boundary. Your dog should be able to follow the commands of “Stop” or “Wait.” If he starts to veer toward crossing the boundary, your quick and firm command should make him stop.

Reinforce the Boundary

Walk the boundary regularly and never allow any breaking of the rule. Even a small step over the boundary requires going back and working on the lessons again. Do some exercises in a temptation to help reinforce the boundary. Place some dog toys outside the boundary or have family members stand on the other side to provide a distraction. Reward your dog when he follows commands and ignore the distractions.

Spending time reinforcing boundaries and teaching commands can help you teach your dog to stay in your yard. It will take time and commitment on your part, but it will be worth it. Follow these dog training tips and your dog will recognize boundaries in no time!

Indoor Training Games Both You and Your Dog Will Love!

When it rains, or snows, or is just too cold to go outside, you have to play some **indoor training games for dogs**! Don't think of this as a bad thing! There are plenty of **games** you can plan indoors with your dog to keep the training going. Granted, you might be short on space, depending on where you live, but you can make it work! All of the following games I selected to share with you can be played in whatever size home you may have, even if it is a studio **apartment**.

The Muffin Tin Game: If you are just starting out, use a 6 space **muffin tin**. Put small treats in about half of them, and then place tennis balls over all the spaces. Your dog has to find the treats, by knocking the balls away. Once he gets the idea, you can upgrade him to a bigger muffin tin (more treats!)

Go...Freeze: This is a great game to help teach him self-control and to listen to your commands. It is kind of like the kid's game Red Light Green Light you used to play. Because you are indoors, you don't want him to run. You can create a fun obstacle course or make him follow you. You can even use a leash if you are in the early stages of **teaching him to walk properly on a leash**. It would benefit you if when you make him 'freeze' that you tell him to 'sit.' This will help to get him to understand that when you are out walking, and you stop, he sits and waits for the next command. You can make a **tug toy** and make him or her fetch it.

Grooming: What? I thought this was an article on indoor training? Yes, it is. How about you try and give your untrained **dog a bath** in the tub or sink? Think he is

going to sit nicely for you and let you pour water all over him? Go ahead, try, I will wait...didn't go well? Oh ok, so here we go. Put your dog in the tub often; this does not mean you have to bathe him every time. The idea is you get him used to the idea of being in the tub (good for you), and he is learning to stay and sit when you tell him to (also good for you, and your dry clothes).

Wait for the treat: Ok so I couldn't come up with a clever name for this one, but here is the idea, and this one doesn't require much space or movement, but it is fun and helps to work on commands. Tell your **dog to sit and stay**. Oh yes, you must have mastered that before you can play this game. Place a treat on his nose and tell him to wait (or whatever command you are using for making him wait). Don't torture him and make him wait long periods of time (at least at first), just make him wait long enough so he is listening to you. We used to do this with one of our old dogs; it was fun, and of course, he gets the treat in the end!

Hide and Seek: When you first start, don't go nuts and make it difficult for him to find you. Pretend like you are playing the game with a preschooler, and hide behind the curtain or something, no closed doors, or going upstairs, at least not yet. You do need a friend or family member to help you; they are going to have to hold your furry friend, while you hide. Then they have to tell him to find you. Make sure you have treats with you to reward him when he finds you!

Training games do not have to be all fetch and ball games! Spend some quality time inside, out of the cold and rain (or the sun, if that is your thing) and work on some commands. Your dog loves to learn, just give him the opportunity to do so! What other training games can you think of that you can play indoors? Shake the creative cobwebs loose and leave some ideas in the comments section below.

[Dog Training Tips to Stop Your Dog from Digging](#)

If you find your fences, flower bed and random spots in your yard are being dug up by your dog,¹ then you may need these **Dog Training Tips to Stop Your Dog from Digging**. While it may be a natural thing for them to do, it can also be very destructive to your property. These tips can help change your dog's behavior and keep those holes from becoming an issue.

Add More Exercise: Often dogs dig out of boredom or need for more activity. Make sure you are not only taking your dogs for walks but engaging them in routine activity. Running, chasing balls or Frisbee (read how you can [train your dog to catch a frisbee](#)) and other active play is crucial for a dog. Without routine play they will easily become bored and seek other actions to occupy their energy.

Block Their Digging: If they are digging at the same location over and over again, it may be best to block their actions. Blocks, rocks, a different type of fence or even different plants or shrubs can change the environment enough to deter your pet from digging there any longer.

Get Rid of Pests or Prey They May Be Hunting: If you have a rat, squirrel, ground hog or other pest issue in your yard, the dog may be actually going after them and not just digging out of frustration or boredom. Work on eliminating pests that may be attracting their attention. This can quickly and easily stop their digging issue.

Show Positive Attention: Sometimes dogs do dig to get your attention. They may want to show you their skill, or perhaps they are angry with you for not paying attention to them. Positive attention can do a lot for keeping the from digging. Playtime, snuggles, hugs, pats on the back, ear scratches and simple things like brushing them or letting them sit next to you will show them that you feel they are valuable to.

A dog that digs is not a bad dog. Using these dog training tips to stop your dog from digging will go a long way toward keeping your yard pretty, and your pets happy. Positive reinforcement, a few minor changes and understanding why they are digging will help you solve this problem quickly and easily. Follow our tips, and look into [training classes for our dog](#) to create a healthier and happier family unit.

How to Train Your Dog to Greet Visitors in 5 Easy Steps

Want Fido to stop trampling everyone who walks through your door? Check out our guide for how to train your dog to greet visitors nicely! Every time I'm expecting visitors, the scene is the same. I try to time it just right and get my [dogs outside](#) before my guests arrive. If I don't, they bum-rush the door, Gracie

jumping around [like a cat](#) on a hot tin roof and Lucy trying her darnedest to make a break for it (then inappropriately sniffing our visitors). It's embarrassing and irritating. There has to be a better way, right?

I've been to others' houses and not been attacked by their dogs the minute I enter the door, so I know it *is* possible to train your dog to greet visitors nicely. But how? After researching several different training options, here are the steps I think will work best for my dogs. Let's try them together!

1. ***Desensitize to knocking or the doorbell.*** For my dogs, the craziness starts with the doorbell ringing. Put your dog on the leash and ask a friend or family member to go outside and ring the doorbell or knock. Hold the leash tightly and say "no bark" as your dog starts barking after hearing the bell. Once your dog calms down, have him sit, and give him a treat and praise. Keep up this routine until he's mastered not pulling on the leash and barking (don't expect success in one training session – this will take some time!). Next, teach the same behavior with the same process when he's off the leash.
2. ***Teach him how and where to sit.*** Now that your dog isn't going nuts when the doorbell rings, teach him how and where he should sit when a guest comes in the door. This one starts with you and your return from being away. When you first come in the door, ignore your dog until she stops jumping. Once she does, show her where to sit near the door and give her treats. Keep up this training until she sits in her spot from the moment you walk in the door. Lots of treats and praise will help!
3. ***Now it's time to practice with other people.*** Ask a friend who particularly likes dogs to come help you. Prepare him or her to ignore your dog just as you did in the previous step until he's sitting nicely. Then, have your friend give treats and praise. Stay with your dog and require him to stay in his sitting spot while your friend goes in the other room. Dismiss your dog to go visit with your friend a moment, then continue with your visit; your dog shouldn't be made the center of attention. In subsequent visits, slowly start working toward you being able to leave and go to the other room without your dog following. Call his name when it's time for him to join you.
4. ***Slowly increase the number of guests.*** It can be overwhelming for your dog to have a lot of people come to the house, but she needs to learn. Once your dog has mastered all of the above steps, have a small group of friends come

over and teach all of them how to act toward the dog when they enter the house. Follow the same process as in step 3.

5. **Be patient.** This is new and different for your dog (and you!), so be patient. Success may take some time, but don't give up

How to Make A Dog Training Obstacle Course Without Going Broke

So, you want to build a **dog training obstacle course like the one you saw on your favorite dog show**, but you don't want to break the bank. The good news is you don't have to! You can build some simple agility tools for very little money and time. Many of the items you can get at hardware stores such as [Home Depot](#) or [Lowe's](#) or maybe even your local store. Check out below how to build a dog training obstacle course for cheap!

Jumps: This is one of the key parts of a [dog training](#) obstacle course. When building a jump, you want to make sure it is collapsible, as you don't want your dog to jump into something solid and get injured. You are working on his agility not seeing how many vet visits you can handle in a month! The good news is you can create jumps from items you can get at your local hardware store. All you really need is [PVC pipe and cups](#) (the C looking things that hold pipe). Make sure you are able to move the cups up and down, so you can adjust the height once you figure out how high your dog can jump.

Weave Poles: The most inexpensive way to do this is with orange traffic cones. They are easy to pick up and store and you can change up the pattern as you wish! These tend to be bigger than what is used in [agility training](#), but they work well if you are just starting or are casually training your dog for fun.

Tunnels: A child's [play tunnel](#) is perfect for this! It's also much easier than trying to make one from scratch. You might already have one and if not, check out the yard sale sites on Facebook for one used and close by. You want to make sure it's sturdy enough that it won't collapse on him (how traumatizing! He won't ever go through that again if that happens!) but also flexible enough that when he runs into the sides of it, it goes with him. This one can be scary as it is enclosed, so make it the best experience possible. You can get on the ground alongside it and coach him through, or if you dare, get in it yourself and coach him along! Lots of positive reinforcement.

Ladders: You can create this with 2 pieces of plywood and a few pieces of smaller wood (smaller than a 2x4) for the steps. Just make sure there are no chances of splinters you don't want to pull them out of Fido's paws! Also, make sure when

you attach the 2 pieces of plywood together you have it at a decent angle for your dog, not too high but not too shallow either.

As you can see, it doesn't take much money to build your own backyard dog training obstacle course. You will have such a great time training him to go through the tunnel and dodge the cones, you might think you are ready to have him [perform on television](#)! One step at a time.